

Winchester House
525 South Winchester Boulevard
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2107

HABS,
CAL,
43-SANJOS,
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

~~HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTION DATA~~

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

STATE CALIFORNIA	COUNTY SANTA CLARA	TOWN OR VICINITY SAN JOSE
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) WINCHESTER HOUSE (WPA California Guide)		HABS NO. CA-2107
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Winchester Mystery House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 525 South Winchester Boulevard, San Jose, Santa Clara County, California		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1884-1922 (WPA Guide)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Architect not known. Mrs. Sarah L. Winchester directed construction for 38 years.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This extraordinary structure is sui generis. Constructed over a period of 38 years because its owner, Winchester Rifle heiress Sarah L. Winchester believed she would live as long as construction continued, the house contains 160 rooms and covers six acres. The original portion purchased in 1884 contains 17 rooms. Some of the 40 stairways and 2,000 doors lead nowhere.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Queen Anne with Eastlake elements		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Wooden frame construction.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Not recorded.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The exterior displays numerous finial-crowned gables, two chateausque towers, porches, stained glass windows, pargeting, cut shingle-work, and many skylighted rectangular cupolas.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Interiors include a maple-paneled ballroom with pipe organ, a "white satin chamber," and a "patchwork of trapdoors, crooked halls, steps leading nowhere, doors opening into space. Forty stairways twist in and out, up and down; 2,000 doors open at unexpected places; there are reportedly thousands of windows." (California - A Guide to the Golden State, Federal Writers' Project, pp. 302-303.)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Restoration in progress since 1973. (Museum brochure)		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Condition good. Used as commercial house museum, rifle museum, and wax museum and garden exhibit.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The Winchester House is a California Historical Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Federal Writers' Project, California - A Guide to the Golden State. New York: 1967, pp. 302-303. "Winchester Mystery House" (Museum brochure)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Denys Peter Myers, Architectural Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey	DATE 11/09/81	

ADDENDUM TO
WINCHESTER HOUSE
(WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE)
525 South Winchester Boulevard
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2107

HABS
CALI.
43-SANJOS,
9-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013